

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02577 121813Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----121823Z 040401 /47

O 121709Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5682
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
USMISSIONUSUN PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2577

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS SY, PLO
SUBJ: ISRAELI VIEWS ON SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION.

REF: STATE 76882; TEL AVIV 2459

1. EVRON ASKED ME TO COME TO JERUSALEM LATE TODAY TO GET THE OFFICIAL ISRAELI RESPONSE TO OUR LATEST REQUEST FOR VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON (PARA 2 OF STATE 76882). MOSHE RAVIV AND JOSEPH HADASS (ACTING DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH) WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. EVRON BEGAN BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE REPLY HE WAS ABOUT TO GIVE HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE "HIGHEST AUTHORITIES." AS A PRELIMINARY, HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RESULTED FROM A SYRIAN ATTEMPT TO ADVANCE THEIR OBJECTIVES INDIRECTLY IN SOUTH LEBANON AFTER THEY HAD BEEN CONTAINED IN THE NABATIYA INCIDENT. THE CURRENT TERRORIST OFFENSIVE SHOWED THE SAME OBJECTIVE OF EXTENDING SYRIAN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02577 121813Z

INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT LEBANON. IT ALSO AIMED AT BREAKING WHAT IS LEFT OF AN INDEPENDENT LEBANESE CHRISTIAN ENTITY AND AT CLOSING DOWN THE GOOD FENCE. BY DOING THIS SYRIA AIMED AT COMPLETING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ITS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL FROM SOUTH LEBANON, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS FOR ACTIVATION OF THE TERRORISTS AGAINST ISRAEL FROM THIS AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN CONSIDERATIONS AND

WHENEVER THE CONDITIONS SEEM FIT.

3. HAVING DISPOSED OF THIS PREAMBLE, EVRON THEN READ THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL POINTS TO ME:

A) ISRAEL CONTINUES TO BE COMMITTED TO THE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON. ISRAEL SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT SARKIS TO BRING ABOUT STABILITY AND THE RETURN OF LAW AND ORDER TO THE WHOLE OF LEBANON.

B) ISRAEL HAS NO TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON. AT THE SAME TIME ISRAEL CANNOT AND WILL NOT TOLERATE A SITUATION IN THE SOUTH WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL.

C) ISRAEL HAS A HUMANITARIAN OBLIGATION TOWARD THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH LEBANON, BOTH CHRISTIAN AND OTHER. ISRAEL WILL NOT TOLERATE THE MASSACRE OF THE CITIZENS OF THE SOUTH, AND THE LATEST ATROCITIES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF KHIAM DEMONSTRATE HOW SERIOUS THIS DANGER IS.

D) ISRAEL WILL NOT ALLOW ANY INTERFERENCE WITH THE ORDERLY FUNCTIONING OF THE GOOD FENCE.

E) AS IN THE PAST, ISRAEL CONTINUES TO OPPOSE ANY SOUTHWARD MOVEMENT OF SYRIAN FORCES OR OTHER ELEMENTS OR UNITS UNDER THEIR CONTROL OR ANY UNITS OF THE INTER-ARAB FORCE.

F) ISRAEL CONSIDERS A REAL AND AUTHENTIC LEBANESE ARMY AS THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 02577 121813Z

SOLE ELEMENT WHICH SHOULD MOVE SOUTHWARD SO AS TO ENFORCE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF LEBANON HEADED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS.

G) THIS REINFORCEMENT OF THE TERRORISTS IN THE SOUTH AND THE LATEST ACTIVITIES THERE COULD BRING ABOUT A SERIOUS DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION IN THAT REGION IN ORDER TO AVOID SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, THE SYRIANS SHOULD BLOCK THE FLOW OF TERRORIST REINFORCEMENTS TO THE SOUTH AND PREVENT THE TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT, AMMUNITION AND OTHER SUPPLIES, TO THIS SENSITIVE AREA. EVENTS HAVE AGAIN PROVEN THAT THE KEY TO TRANQUILITY IN THIS REGION LIES IN SYRIAN HANDS. ISRAEL BELIEVES THAT THE EQUILIBRIUM IN SOUTH LEBANON SHOULD BE RESTORED TO WHAT IT WAS BEFORE THE RECENT OFFENSIVE BY THE TERRORIST FORCES.

H) IF SYRIA WILL THUS CONTRIBUTE ITS SHARE TO AVOIDING A POTENTIAL DETERIORATION, ISRAEL WILL FOR ITS PART - AS IT HAS DONE IN THE PAST - CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN THE AREA. ISRAEL WILL SEEK TO PERSUADE THE LEBANESE CHRISTIAN FORCES TO DESIST FROM WARLIKE ACTIVITIES AND ENCOURAGE THEM

TO COOPERATE WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS AND WITH THE NEW COMMANDER
OF THE LEBANESE ARMY.

4. COMMENT: MANY OF THESE POINTS WERE FORESHADOWED BY FOREIGN
MINISTER ALLON IN HIS "FIRST-HAND REACTION" TO OUR REQUEST
FOR ISRAELI VIEWS (TEL AVIV 2459). WHEN THE DEEP AND EVER-
PRESENT SUSPICION OF SYRIAN MOTIVES (FIVE OF THE EIGHT POINTS, PLUS
THE PREAMBLE) IS CUT THROUGH, THERE DOES
APPEAR TO BE AN INDICATION OF ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO HELP SEE
THE PRESENT UNSETTLED SITUATION CALMED DOWN (E.G., THE FINAL
POINT). WHETHER OR NOT IT IS A REAL OLIVE BRANCH, IT MIGHT
BEHOOVE US TO TREAT IT AS ONE. A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE
SECRETARY TO ALLON FOR HIS "STATESMANLIKE" APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM
MIGHT BE A WAY TO BEGIN.
DUNNIGAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV02577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770126-0992
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770464/aaaacdmp.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 736d35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 76882, 77 TEL AVIV 2459
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2827435
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI VIEWS ON SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION.
TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS, SY, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/736d35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009